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NUCLEAR, SPACE WEAPONS TALKS END, TO RESUME 8 MAY

LD041210 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1154 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, 4 Mar (TASS) -- The regular, fourth round of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons ended here today with a plenary session of the delegations.

It was agreed that the talks will resume on 8 May 1986.

Kasparov Comment

LD050858 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 5 Mar 86

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Pavel Kasparov]

[Text] The fourth round of USSR-U.S. talks on nuclear and space armaments has ended in Geneva. Let me remind you that the conversations held in Geneva last November between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan gave rise to considerable hopes among the world public that the work at these talks would be speeded up. The Soviet Union made considerable efforts to this end. As you will remember, Comrade Gorbachev set out a Soviet program for the full elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 on 15 January of this year.

The U.S. side, however, failed for a long time to give a specific response to it, and in his recent reported statement, President Reagan accompanied his reply with various kinds of reservations, linkages, and conditions that effectively block a solution to the fundamental issues of disarmament. This in turn could not fail to have a negative impact on the results of the fourth round of USSR-U.S. talks, which have just ended in Geneva. According to observers, the results of the present round confirm yet again that the U.S. Administration's peace rhetoric is manifestly not confirmed by its practical actions.

Gen Chervov Remarks

LD042042 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Report by Moscow correspondent Stefan Babiak]

[Excerpt] At the 27th CPSU Congress press center today, I met Colonel General Nikolay Chervov, a leading military expert. We discussed, in particular, the results of the fourth round of the Soviet-U.S. talks on space and nuclear weapons, which ended today in Geneva. Nikolay Chervov told me this:

[Begin recording in Russian with superimposed Czech translation] Even with the best will in the world and even after a detailed analysis, we were unable to find anything new in the U.S. proposals. What Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev said on the rostrum at the 27th Party Congress has been confirmed: The U.S. proposals cannot be considered constructive.

A detailed explanation of all the nuances of the U.S. response to our far-reaching initiatives of January this year showed that Washington has not shifted its position in any respect. This does not mean, however, that stagnation at the Geneva talks will force us to fold our arms and passively wait. The Soviet Union is determined to continue to seek common ground with the United States with the aim of succeeding in finding ways to stop the arms race, prevent the militarization of space, and alleviate the continually high level of international tension, emphasized Col Gen Nikolay Chervov. [end recording]

CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION TALKS OPEN IN GENEVA

LD042058 Moscow TASS in English 2042 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 4 TASS -- A regular session of the Soviet-American Permanent Consultative Commission opened here today. The commission was established to promote the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the anti-ballistic missile systems, the interim agreement on certain measures with respect to the limitation of strategic offensive arms signed by the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. May 26, 1972, and the bilateral September 30, 1971 agreement on measures to reduce the risk of outbreak of nuclear war.

CHERNYSHEV NOTES 'MOMENT OF TRUTH' FOR W. EUROPE

LD041621 Moscow TASS in English 1555 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 4 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Chernyshev writes: A call has been reiterated with full vigor at the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for delivering the world from nuclear weapons.

The USSR suggests completely ridding the European region of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles as a first step which can be taken without delay.

Its proposals on this issue are marked by a spirit of constructiveness.

The Soviet Union met the wishes of the leadership of NATO countries halfway, by expressing readiness not to link the resolution of the problem of medium-range missiles in the European zone with the issues of strategic arms and the non-militarization of outer space.

The corresponding nuclear armaments of Britain and France, even though they are an inalienable component of the European balance of nuclear forces, will not be taken into account.

These are serious moves on the part of the USSR, aimed at facilitating the attainment of a mutual accord.

The sole contribution that would be made by the above West European countries to launching the process of freeing Europe from nuclear weapons would be their pledging not to raise the number of their corresponding nuclear arms.

All details related to this issue could be the subject of a direct exchange of opinions directly with Britain and France.

The USSR specified also the following important matter: If the American medium-range missiles in Europe are eleminated completely, there will be no longer any need for keeping the Soviet increased-range operational-tactical missiles where they are currently stationed as a reply to the American missile deployments.

So there has come a moment of truth for Western Europe, a time which offers a serious test of political responsibility and an opportunity to demonstrate real intentions.

But even today one is surprised and made wary by the conduct of some representatives of the leadership of West European countries, who have clearly lost their "enthusiasm" and are now resorting to all manner of reservations and excuses.

This attests to the fact that some people in Western Europe are not at all going to think in terms of nuclear disarmament, let alone make a practical contribution to this process.

Moreover, in NATO countries forces openly opposed to the destruction of nuclear weapons have stepped up their activity. West German Defense Minister Manfred Woerner said, for instance, that "no strategy without nuclear weapons is possible on either the global scale or the European scale.

The mountains of arms, which have made the continent into a powder keg, are not enough for such figures. They are urging close West European involvement in the U.S. "star wars" program and also pushing the so-called "European defense initiative" in addition to the American SDI.

Thus a new, even more dangerous spiral of the arms race, a transition to strategic chaos is being programmed.

It is high time these figures fundamentally revised their outdated doctrines based on nuclear weapons, abandoned the futile dreams of achieving military superiority, and realized that the possibilities and nature of modern weapons are such as make the policy of confrontation devoid of any sense.

'NUCLEAR WINTER' POSSIBLE FROM CONVENTIONAL WAR

LD281434 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 28 TASS -- The latest developments by Soviet scientists showed the need for reviewing the principles underlying relations between the peoples, as well as ways and means of solving conflicts.

The computer centre of the USSR Academy of Sciences undertook research into different vital problems, including that of staving off nuclear war. A specially drafted mathematical system helped create a model of nuclear war, which served as a basis for a strictly scientific evaluation of the impact a new world war would have on the biosphere.

The mathematical models showed the earth enveloped in soot, impenetrable to sun rays, but not only as a result of the use of nuclear weapons. An effect, similar to the "nuclear winter" one, might also emerge as a result of the use of conventional weapons whose capacity is constantly increasing, the NEW TIMES [NOVOYE VRYMYA] magazine quotes Academician Nikita Moyseyev, deputy director of the computer centre.

In his article, he also cites other problems facing mankind. Scientists, for example, plan to look into the way ocean pollution affects the climate. A thin film, formed by pollutants on the ocean surface, throttles the energy flow from the ocean to the atmosphere. Evaporation from the surface also decreases. Research showed that tons of oil products are dumped into harbour areas. Scientists will also study its impact on the climate and the distribution pattern of precipitation.

U.S. BUILDUP PLANS FUEL NUCLEAR THREAT

PM201118 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 86 Second Edition p 3

[Captain 2d rank Ye. Nikitin Military-Political Review": "To Avert the Looming Threat"]

[Text] Time is sweeping mankind toward the threshold of the third millennium. How many new opportunities does the future offer the earth's inhabitants! There is also, however, a great danger for the fate of peace, stemming from those who think in terms of confrontation and are totally incapable of abandoning their claims to world domination, whose untenability was already proved a long time ago.

The Soviet Union urges people to be aware of their responsibility for life on the planet, reorient their mentality and thinking in the nuclear age, display a sober approach toward prevailing realities, and learn to get along with one another having jettisoned the ballast of mistrust and suspicion. The new initiatives, which it recently put forward, really capture the imagination with their scope, comprehensiveness, and profound concern for the fate of peace. They display the wisdom and responsibility of the foreign policy implemented by the CPSU.

"The most acute problem facing mankind today is the problem of war and peace," the draft new edition of the CPSU Program reads. Peaceful coexistence is the only sensible, the only acceptable solution in a world abounding with acute contradictions and in the face of the nuclear catastrophe threatening the whole of mankind. The Soviet Union takes peaceful coexistence to mean not just the absence of war, but an international order under which good neighborliness and cooperation would dominate and there would be a broad exchange of the achievements of science and technology and of cultural values to the benefit of all peoples.

The Soviet Union's present foreign policy course is a law-governed and consistent continuation of Lenin's peace strategy. There is something symbolic in the fact that today, 15 years before the end of the century, the Soviet Union has put to the entire world its proposals to destroy nuclear and chemical arms and reduce conventional weapons. This is our stance, expressing the essence of the Soviet Union's foreign and domestic policy and their organic unity. The understanding that nuclear war is impermissible, that it must not be fought, and that there can be no victors in it determines the Soviet Union's principled stance in the international arena. And the problem of ensuring security is the key and central problem at the present stage.

The Soviet Union does not seek military superiority over the United States. Back in the past both sides determined the existence of strategic parity between them (and this has just been reaffirmed by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff). It is high time that Washington got used to this parity as the natural state of Soviet-American relations. And if there is to be talk about anything, it ought to be about lowering this level of this parity. In other words, to implement real measures to reduce arms, and primarily the means of mass destruction, on a reciprocal basis.

This presentation of the issue leads completely logically to a conclusion of fundamental importance. Namely, that neither the United States nor the Soviet Union must do anything that would open channels for an arms race in new spheres. It is, after all, obvious that if space weapons are given the "green light" the scale of military rivalry will expand immeasurably. It is possible to predict even now that the arms race would become irreversible and get out of control. Under these circumstances either side could at any given moment perceive a certain loss and would start seeking all kinds of methods for a response. This would whip up the arms race still further, and no longer only in space but also on Earth. To put it briefly, the pernicious process would gather headlong pace like an avalanche rolling down a steep mountainside.

These are the fundamental postulates by which the Soviet Union is guided in determining its foreign policy course. As M.S. Gorbachev pointed out in his answers to questions from L'HUMANITE, "in the nuclear age it is impossible to live -- or to live for a long time at least -- with the mentality, customs, and rules of behavior of the Stone Age." The new Soviet proposals aimed at the total elimination of nuclear arms in the period until the year 2000 are evidence that the Soviet Union is opposed in principle to world history being written with the tips of missiles. It is in favor of ensuring that general statements about the need to improve the international situation are translated into specific deeds.

The idea that nuclear war is impermissible and impossible to win has also been expressed on many occasions by the American side. Furthermore, this idea was recorded in the Soviet-U.S. statement on the results of the Geneva summit meeting. However, Washington's practical deeds are fundamentally different from its much publicized peace-loving declarations. It is possible to perceive behnd these deeds the sinister designs of the most reactionary imperialist circles to launch a new round of the arms race and transfer nuclear weapons into space.

It is planned to appropriate the sum of $4.8 billion for the "star wars" program in fiscal 1987, which is almost double the appropriations for the current fiscal year. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, $76 million will be spent just on research development [nauchno-issledovatelskaya razrabotka] within the framework of the notorious "Strategic Defense Initiative." Some experts even estimate the total cost of the program at $1 trillion!

Specifically, the administration is asking Congress to appropriate funds for the ASAT antisatellite system in 1987. It is unbelievable and yet a fact that expenditure on the testing and production of ASAT, which is a component of a large-scale ABM system with space-based elements, is planned to increase... 33 times over 3 fiscal years (1986-1988). Democrat Congressman L. AuCoin described the U.S. intention to deploy the ASAT system as "insanity."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already spoken on many occasions about the essence of the so-called "Stragegic Defense Initiative." Let us recall just the main points. Space strike weapons, which are a component of an integrated offensive complex, are being created [sozdatsya] under cover of demagogic arguments about a defensive "shield." The fundamental objective is to attain military superiority over the Soviet Union. In attempting to extend the arms race into space Washington is essentially deliberately acting to wreck the talks that are in progress and to nullify all existing arms limitation agreements. The United States' continuation of its adventurist undertaking could result in the world finding itself in a situation of an absolutely uncontrolled arms race, strategic chaos, a most dangerous undermining of stability, and universal uncertainty and fear. In other words, the risk of a universal catastrophe would increase immeasurably.

The implementation of the "star wars" program is being accompanied by hitherto unprecedented expenditure on the so-called "nuclear rearmament of America" and the creation [sozdaniye] of almost 10,000 new warheads for strategic missiles. This was was written in particular by Professor (F. Knelman), author of the recently published book "Reagan, God, and the Bomb" [Reygan, Bog, i Bomba]. Evidence of this is also provided by the draft budget of the U.S. Department of Defense for fiscal 1987, which has grown to the unprecedented sum of $311.6 billion. It is well known that the Pentagon has requested funds for the stepped up implementation of literally all nuclear programs.

In particular, the purchase of 21 MX missiles is envisaged. The Pentagon is planning to acquire a total of 100 new MX ICBM's. Congress has already "okayed" the construction of 50 of these missiles. Furthermore, funds have been requested to start the creation [sozdaniye] of Midgetman missiles scheduled for deployment in the nineties.

Pentagon chief Weinberger is insisting on finance for the building of an additional "Trident" class nuclear missile submarine and on appropriations for the purchase of Trident-2 (D-5) missiles. This type of missile is meant for use as a first strike weapon and will become part of submarines' armament in 1989.

The building of B-1B strategic bombers will continue, and it is planned to complete the first squadron of these aircraft by as early as next fall. Funds have been requested for the creation [sozdaniye] of a qualitatively new bomber and new cruise missiles which would be invisible to ground-based radar stations. It is planned to deploy new nuclear missiles in West Europe, to substantially build up the arsenals of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force, and to boost the potential of the interventionist Rapid Deployment Forces.

All this provides evidence that the United States remains obsessed by the ideas of gaining absolute security for itself and placing everyone else in a position of absolute danger. The total completion of the creation [sozdaniye] of some nuclear weapon systems is due by the end of this century. This means that they will be in service during the following decades of the 21st century. In contrast, the Soviet Union's profoundly humane and far-reaching peace proposals are aimed at ensuring that mankind goes into the third millennium totally free of all types of mass destruction weapons.

It ought to be particularly emphasized that the unrestrained buildup of all types of weapons is accompanied by the development [razrabotka] of various adventurist "doctrines" and "concepts." For example, Washington recently put forward the foreign policy doctrine of "new globalism." So-called "theoreticians" justifying and promoting these "concepts" have also emerged from among the most aggressive and reactionary circles of the ruling clique in present-today America.

The essence of the "new globalism" is that the United States is attempting to usurp the right to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states or in what it describes as "low intensity" conflicts which occur from time to time in different regions. Moreover, the United States itself is fanning these conflicts, engaging in saber-rattling, threats, and committing direct acts of aggression. All kinds of puppets, butchers, skilled executioners, and overthrown dictators, whose hands are stained by the blood of thousands of innocent victims, are received as guests of honor in Washington. There are more than enough examples: South African butchers, surviving remnants of Pol Pot and Somoza supporters, Afghan dushmans, Angolan members of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], and other bandits and stooges of all colors and hues -- they all receive generous material and military assistance from Washington and paternal blessings to commit new crimes.

As the march of historical development undermines the positions of imperialism, its policy toward other peoples becomes correspondingly more hostile and aggressive. U.S. imperialism has become a true citadel of world reaction. It is the primary source of the threat of war. Laying claim to world domination, it proclaims entire continents to be zones of its "vital interests." The U.S. policy of diktat, support for repressive antipeople regimes, and interference in other states' internal affairs is exacerbating the international situation to an extreme extent. The danger looming over mankind is more terrifying than ever before.

But the opportunities to preserve and strengthen peace are themselves more real than ever before. Pooling their efforts, the peoples can and must avert the threat of nuclear annihilation. The path toward this is shown by the Soviet Union.

PORTUGALOV DEFENDS ACTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, PDRY

AU282045 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1730 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Interview with "Soviet foreign policy expert" Nikolay Portugalov, "staff member of the CPSU Central Committee," by Austrian Radio correspondent Raimund Loew; place and date of interview not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Loew] After the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in Geneva there were media reports that the Soviet attitude to the Afghanistan problem was about to change. There were articles in the Soviet press that were interpreted as critical of the practices of the ruling party in Kabul. At the same time, it now seems that nothing has changed regarding Soviet warfare in Afghanistan itself. Was that smoke without fire?

[Portugalov] Well, dear colleague Loew, you force me again and again immediately to make at least verbal corrections to your terminology. First of all, regarding warfare -- do not hold this against me -- you are sticking, as you are entitled to do, to the framework of the officially adopted Western terminology, based on a different concept. First of all, warfare by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, that to me is a dubious term. It is right that our forces are there...

[Loew] But they are also waging a war....

[Portugalov] They are waging a war, but not as a main party involved in a war. They are there, having been invited in accordance with the UN statutes, by a legitimate government established by the revolution. This is the legal situation. Now, regarding the critical articles: I would say that there is no rule against criticizing friends occasionally, and suggesting adjustments and voicing new ideas regarding our own policy. Basically, nothing has changed. Our position, our starting position, was the same as it is today. We would be glad to bring about a political settlement in Afghanistan; and, with our consent, the Afghan Government -- let me stress again, the legitimate government -- is doing everything within its power to achieve progress in the so-called indirect talks with Pakistani representatives.

In our opinion, there is one obstacle to a political settlement: The thing would long be over if the counterrevolutionary forces were not given massive military support by a number of states opposed to us. And, third -- well, in this particular aspect I would be inclined to agree with you up to a certain point -- perhaps it was really the case that some revolutionary reforms, which in themselves are good and valuable, were planned and implemented a little too quickly for a country of Afghanistan's developmental level. Is it such a bad thing to liquidate illiteracy? Is it such a bad thing to give women the same rights as men? And so on and so forth. Surely these are normal revolutionary-democratic reforms. However, it has turned out that the Islamized Afghan society, where in some places there are still tribal and feudal customs, was actually not yet ripe for such reforms in many respects, and here it will certainly be necessary to make a few corrections. You are right as far as this is concerned.

[Loew] The current Kabul government probably has such a weak social and political base mainly because a large part of the Afghans regard it as a regime acting on behalf of a foreign power.

[Portugalov] Mr Loew, that is your information -- I cannot agree with that. I tell you, in any case: If it were not for the massive military support via the Afghan-Pakistani border, which for all practical purposes cannot be sealed, support that virtually amounts to an undeclared aggression, then the question would have been resolved long ago.

[Loew] True, there is Western support for the Islamic resistance fighters, but there are no Western soldiers; there is Soviet support for the Kabul government, but there are also Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan.

[Portugalov] I can only repeat, Mr Loew: The Afghan Government -- you may name it differently -- is in our opinion a legitimate government that emerged from the revolution -- and in line with the relevant UN statutes it has invited a limited [last word spoken with emphasis] contingent of Soviet troops into the country. Rest assured, Mr Loew, a political settlement is our foremost goal; only...

[Loew] But there are no initiatives to date -- one has the impression that Afghanistan is a problem for the leadership under Gorbachev; there have been serious defeats in the United Nations; it is obviously a war that is difficult to win...

[Portugalov] One can push through this or that by exerting massive influence -- this can be done by a big power like the United States; let us leave it at that for the moment. But, it is a fact that a political settlement in Afghanistan is our foremost goal.

[Loew] Why, then, are there no Soviet initiatives in this respect?

[Portugalov] How can you say that there are no such initiatives? We have indeed proposed more than once to halt the massive military support. I could give you a long list of what is being supplied: the most modern weapons, and even if the Afghan counterrevolutionary forces would not be any military opponent for us -- equipped with such weapons, with the dernier cri -- if I may say so -- of Western military technology, they can still do a lot of harm, and they are actually doing it. Look here, had we really wanted to bring about a military decision -- following the example of the Americans who pumped some 600,000 soldiers into Vietnam at the culmination of the war there -- the problem would probably be resolved. Only, we are not doing it. We are not doing it. You know, for the Soviet Union as a big power, for our military potential, 100,000 soldiers are the smallest contingent conceivable.

[Loew] Well, for Afghanistan this is a very, very substantive force.

[Portugalov] I can only assure you once more that a political solution in Afghanistan is our foremost goal. As I see things, Afghanistan is not to be, or to remain, a communist or socialist country in this sense of the word, but rather a nonaligned state, a neutral state. Of course, it must be amicably inclined toward the Soviet Union. You must not forget that this is, after all, our border.

[Loew] That is how Ronald Reagan is arguing regarding the United States' backyard in Central America.

[Portugalov] Let him argue like that. Only, you know, he is in the opposite position. We support the people's revolution, while Reagan supports the contras, who have no chance at all there.

[Loew] Do you mean that proposals such as those made by UN rapporteur Felix Ermacora to neutralize Afghanistan after Austria's pattern, and also to demilitarize it on the basis of a guarantee by the big powers -- do you think that this might be compatible with your ideas?

[Portugalov] This idea of Mr Ermacora at any rate constitutes a usable basis for continuing the talks -- quite distinct from what Mr Ermacora has been bold to say about us, charging us with precisely what the other side is doing. All this about minefields and other assertions -- do you think we really need that? And these perfidious and infamous lies and defamations of the honor of the Soviet troops -- this, to say the least, does not add to Mr Ermacora's credit. So, let us keep these two things strictly apart.

[Loew] Let us stay in the Middle East region: the civil war in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], one of the most important alliance partners of the Soviet Union in this region. Is there actually self-criticism in Moscow now that there was a lack of crisis management?

[Portugalov] The PDRY is certainly one of our allies, but it would probably be exaggerating to call this state our main ally or one of our main allies -- so much for the definition.

[Loew] But there are very important military bases there.

[Portugalov] Listen, this is old hat: It is being asserted that we are setting up bases, just as the Americans have been doing. There are certain facilities, but -- for your information, dear Mr Loew -- we do not have a regular military base there. We have landing rights there, and we have certain rights in the port -- but nothing more; we have no troops there.

[Loew] Military advisers?

[Portugalov] Military advisers -- that is quite a different story. Military advisers are by no means military forces, as you know. Well, as far as the clashes, the sanguinary clashes there, are concerned, first of all I would agree that this has been a troublesome and very sad development, which was rather painful for us. Now, I proceed from the premise that the situation has meanwhile calmed down and that the PDRY will maintain its course which was also proclaimed by its former leaders.

[Loew] The Sovet reactions in the first phase of the civil war were relatively confused: In the first phase, former President Nasir Muhammad was supported, and the rebels were called counterrevolutionaries -- and today it is the other way around: Nasir Muhammad is the counterrevolutionary and the rebels....

[Portugalov] No, it was not like that. All communications with PDRY were cut off, and you are right, to get through and to get a clear picture of the confused situation was at that time quite impossible. If you fastidiously reproach me for this or that wrong assessment in this situation of crisis, which was competely unfathomable for several days -- oh, well, we all make mistakes. Now, I repeat, the situation has been consolidated and we are certain, we have every reason to assume, that the PDRY will continue to pursue its course, not perhaps under any compulsion by us. We were not involved at all, we were not mixed up in it. Well, as to what is going on in Mideast countries, in Arab countries, in any of them -- and the PDRY is certainly no exception -- what are such armed conflicts, which perhaps are caused and fanned by certain tribal traditions, in comparison with what has been going on for over 10 years already in Lebanon, arranged by the hands of the West and of Israel? Has there been any crisis management there?

CIA'S MCMAHON RESIGNS: DRA POLICY DISPUTE CITED

LD051034 Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 5 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Lyutyy:

John McMahon, first deputy director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, has resigned from his post for "personal reasons."

President Ronald Reagan accepted his resignation and appointed to the post Robert Gates, the agency's deputy director for intelligence.

According to UPI news agency, several extreme right-wing organizations led by the reactionary Free the Eagle grouping have sought McMahon's resignation for several months because he, as deputy director for operations in charge of the CIA's clandestin spy network from 1978 to 1981, doubted the advisability of providing armaments to anti-Afghan bandits through CIA Channels.

Even if the charges against McMahon were untrue, the administration, as news analysts believe, could not keep in the agency's No. 2 post a person whose commitment to the undeclared war against Afghanistan was in doubt.

REAGAN'S EFFORT TO AID CONTRAS DRAWS CRITICISM

Zamyatin Remarks

LD041936 Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 4 TASS -- The radio address of U.S. President Reagan March 3 in which he demanded the allocation of an additional 100 million dollars in so-called assistance to the "contras" is nothing else than the striving to create new opportunities for expanding support for the counter-revolutionary forces acting against the legitimate government of Nicaragua. This was stated by Leonid Zamyatin, head of the International Information Department of the CPSU Central Committee. He addressed newsmen in the press center of the 27th Congress of the CPSU today.

The President stressed that the money is needed to buy combat equipment -- helicopters, tanks and other systems that can enable the "contras," who are referred to in the United States as "freedom fighters," to scale up their terrorist operations. These "freedom fighters" were driven out of Nicaragua some time back together with the Somoza dictatorial regime. Attempts are being made in the United States now to assemble the remains of these forces into some groups and pass them off as "freedom fighters," to supply military aid to them and send them into Nicaragua where they could provoke military conflicts.

The President added substance to his intentions also by hosting in the White House the ringleaders of these bandit formations. One of the American news agencies, commenting on the policy of the United States toward Nicaragua, writes today: Reagan alleges that Nicaragua threatens Latin America countries, neighboring nations and even the United States. This is said at the time when the sky over Nicaragua and over the coast of that country is literally black with U.S. planes which conduct their so-called maneuvers near the territorial waters of Nicaragua and the frontiers of that country, and in doing so, generate tensions and an atmosphere of military psychosis. This campaign corresponds to the Reagan-proclaimed policy of the U.S. Administration.

In accordance with it, the settlement of regional conflicts should be based, above all, on the interests of the United States.

And this means that the United States, actually breaching the sovereign rights of many states, Nicaragua in this case, is engaged in subversive activities and meddles in the internal affairs of the independent and free Nicaraguan state. Peace talks proposed both by the Nicaraguan Government and the Contadora Group do not suit the U.S. One thing suits it -- the position of strength, hard pressure, intervention is doing around Nicaragua constitutes provocative power politics and interference in the internal affairs of an independent people, an independent country. This is how we regard it in the Soviet Union. Such a policy does not correspond to the general tendency in the international situation -- the tendency to settle the situation in individual regions by peaceful means, by means of talks, not by military provocations and blackmail.

Leonid Zamyatin also touched on yesterday's statement by U.S. secretary of state who, in a bid to justify U.S. power politics against Nicaragua, alleged that the United States was threatened by Soviet advisers staying on Nicaragua's territory. Even the figure was given -- 200 advisers. This is not the first time we see how the top echelon of the United States engages in juggling with figures. But they do not correspond to reality. This replying to Mr Shultz, Leonid Zamyatin said.

'Brainwashing' Campaign

LD041219 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0717 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Aleksandr Lyutyy report]

[Text] Washington, 4 Mar (TASS) -- President Reagan has personally joined the campaign of concentrated psychological brainwashing of the U.S. public and the Congress, aiming to garner support for the extension of the undeclared war against sovereign Nicaragua.

The head of the Washington administration has received in the White House a group of leaders of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. The President has given them a warm reception and promised that his administration "would do everything possible" and "would put maximum pressure on Congress" to gain approval of new extensive military aid for the "contras." It is known that Reagan had earlier requested from Congress about $100 million for the anti-Nicaraguan bandit formations, from which a minimum of $70 million be spent on supplying the latest arms to terrorists. It is planned in particular to supply them with the latest military helicopters.

The undeclared U.S. war against Nicaragua is a real embodiment of the criminal "strategy of neo-globalism" conducted by the Reagan administration, according to which Washington is attempting to get "the right" to force its will on other peoples by the force of weapons. To justify this international banditry, the White House now turns to the most improbable fabrications and myths about some kind of "Soviet military threat." So, on Monday, addressing a group of representatives of the private sector who support the "contras," Reagan maintained that if Congress does not approve the administration's request, then Soviet military bases would appear on the U.S. threshold; "the security of the Panama Canal would be threatened" and the situation could lead to..."strategic disaster."

At the same time Secretary of State G. Shultz, addressing the annual congress of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, admitted that without immediate concentrated U.S. support, Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries are doomed to certain defeat.

This is an attempt, by any means, to galvanize the Nicaraguan counterrevolution -- contrary to all norms of international law -- to overthrow the lawful government of a sovereign country, unwelcome to Washington. Such a course, as THE WASHINGTON POST admits, evokes more and more dissatisfaction even in U.S. allies in Central and Latin America. The concern about the escalation of military conflict in the region is increasing in the U.S. Congress. A member of the House of Representatives D. Bonior (D-Mich.) stated: "We are throwing ever more fresh funds of taxpayers into waging a war, to which no end is in sight and which is getting more and more difficult to control."

Ivanov Commentary

LD041502 Moscow World Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Viktor Ivanov commentary]

[Text] The United States Administration is bringing pressure to bear on Congress and the public in a bid to secure the allocation of $100 million in military aid to the Nicaraguan contras. Here is a commentary by Viktor Ivanov and this is what he writes:

One can get an idea of the funds that the United States Administration is seeking from the speech Secretary of State Shultz made at a meeting with Veterans of Foreign Wars. The speech was published in advance of the meeting. Mr Shultz is of the opinion that unless the United States extends the package of military aid to the anti-Nicaraguan groups soon, the revolutionary Government of Nicaragua will grow still stronger, and any resistance to it will be crushed. The United States Administration is therefore obviously alarmed at the prospect for the removal of the causes of the regional conflict that has shaken Central America. According to Washington, the efforts of the Sandinista Government to overcome the consequences of many years of rule by a pro-American dictatorship run counter to what is termed the vital interests of the United States. Inequality also runs counter to these interests.

Those who are trying to restore the old order -- those who are killing Nicaraguan civilians, blowing up economic and civilian facilities, do enjoy Washington's unreserved support. And they stand to get an additional $100 million for their campaign of terror.

In other words, the United States aid package is to perpetuate the bloodshed and suffering in Central America. The causes of the regional conflicts will not be removed. Far from it. The United States aid package will fuel the conflict further. Washington pursues the same policy in other flashpoints of the planet -- the Middle East, Afghanistan, and other places. Washington relies on brute force, stalling at the same time all political means of achieving a settlement.

What does the United States Administration mean when it links the settlement of regional conflicts problems of disarmament, as it did in a recent reply to the Soviet program for eliminating weapons of mass destruction by the turn of the century? It can be that Washington is hoping to induce the Soviet Union to become involved in suppressing the liberation movements or counterrevolutionary activity against newly free states. It can also be that the American leaders are hoping to justify their plans of accelerated militarization by referring to ongoing conflicts and at the same time fanning these conflicts. Neither approach has any chance of success. The Political Report to the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party makes it abundantly clear that the Soviet Union is in favor of unconditional respect in international affairs for the sovereign right of every people to choose ways and forms of its development and that it is in favor of a fair, negotiated settlement of international crises and regional conflicts.

The Soviet Union is in favor of intensifying a collective search of ways for defusing conflict situations.

In his statement of 15th January Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union is opposed to attempts to link disarmament measures with regional conflicts. Behind these attempts, the statement says, is an unwillingness to make progress towards disarmament and a desire to thrust an alien will on sovereign nations. Viewed in this context, the present anti-Nicaraguan campaign of Washington is assuming even more dangerous dimensions.

Aid 'Uncontrolled'

LD050924 Moscow TASS in English 0907 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 5 TASS -- The provision of aid to gangs of Nicaraguan counter-revolution is totally uncontrolled, conclude specialists of the General Accounting Office of U.S. Congress. After conducting special study, they have determined that the administration is simply unable to account for most of the funds provided to the terrorists as "humanitarian aid."

Meanwhile, full accountability was one of the conditions on which Congress agreed to endorse last autumn the White House's request for 30 million dollars in aid to the bandits. At present, as is known, the White House is requesting three times the amount. Although part of the funds will go for "humanitarian purposes", according to an official inquiry, there is no doubt that, given the existing system of "accountability", which, by the way, suits the administration, all the 100 million dollars will be channelled for military assistance.

State Department Behind Aid

LD050928 Moscow TASS in English 0912 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 5 TASS -- The White House is not going to seek a peaceful settlement of the Central American conflict but will go ahead with its policy of power pressure on Nicaragua, Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, has bluntly declared.

Speaking at a conference arranged by Washington at the Ethics and Public Policy Centre, he claimed that American military aid to counter-revolutionary gangs bent on ousting the Sandinista government is absolutely necessary in order to force Nicaragua to conduct negotiations. The highly placed State Department official rejected the proposals for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Central America, recently presented to the administration by foreign ministers of eight Latin American countries. The administration's approach encounters strong criticism at U.S. Congress. Speaker Thomas O'Neill, in his statement at the House of Representatives, demanded that the White House start talks aimed at a peaceful settlement of the situation in that region rather than bet on "military strength".

'FACTUAL ERRORS' IN REAGAN TV SPEECH VIEWED

PM041840 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 12

[V. Mikheyev "Rejoinder": "'Unrestrained' Statements"]

[Text] There is an old saying: "Illiteracy is a person's downfall." The text of President Reagan's latest television speech, as well as the radio additions to it, abounded with so many factual errors that you cannot call them anything but deliberate.

Take, for example, the thesis of the "restraint" which the United States displayed, so it turns out, in building up arms in the seventies -- a thesis cited on innumerable occasions. And, at the same time, the thesis of the sharp reduction in U.S. spending on militarist purposes during those years, which attests, according to Washington's claims, almost to "unilateral disarmament."

How does the President's "literacy" correspond to the facts? Quite frankly, not too well. First, as THE WASHINGTON POST writes, U.S. Defense Department documents show that the reduction in the Pentagon's total spending in the early seventies was occasioned by the end of the Vietnam war, which had cost the Americans $111 billion (twice as much as the Korean war). However, starting in fiscal 1976, military appropriations soared to dizzying heights.

Second, the conveyor belts of the manufacturers of death did not stop for a minute, and the pursuit of strategic superiority over the Soviet Union continued. During that period the Minuteman III strategic missiles were reequipped with warheads of the Mark 12A type -- which doubled the yield of their combat charge. During the same time, when the United States was supposedly displaying "restraint," its nuclear potential increased by a considerable number of warheads -- which greatly surpassed the Soviet Union's actions in that sphere, as Senator C. Levin emphasized. Over the past 20 years, Rear Admiral G. LaRocque, retired, director of the American Center for Defense Information, pointed out, more than 1,300 new ballistic missiles and 10,000 nuclear warheads for them have been created in the United States.

Third, in May 1971 and January 1972 contracts were renewed with the Martin Orlando Company, which was developing a new medium-range missile. It was the highly accurate Pershing II missile. An "invisible weapon" was acquiring specific outlines in parallel with this -- the Tomahawk cruise missile, which the firm of General Dynamics contracted to build in 1972. This was another U.S. initiative in the nuclear arms race.

It is also possible to cite other arguments that could knock the stuffing out of the exaggerated myth of American "restraint". The Soviet side has enough facts to debunk this deception that has once again been put to use right now, when U.S. public opinion polls have revealed a "weakening of support for the policy of increasing military spending." Some 59 percent of Americans believe that military spending is unreasonably high and must be cut to reduce the huge federal budget deficit. One high-ranking official in the Reagan administration has admitted, THE WASHINGTON POST writes, that "three out of every four Americans believe that the United States already has an adequate defense potential."

And so the military-industrial circles, which throughout the 5 years of the Reagan administration's rule have been successfully siphoning off the country's national riches and, at the same time, other countries' national riches into their safes, panicked. And that was why the American leader was forced to resort to unlawful methods.

POSNER INTERVIEWED ON U.S. REACTION TO REMARKS

LD042134 Prague International Service in English 1630 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] A recent interview on ABC television in which a Soviet radio political commentator, Vladimir Posner, criticized President Reagan's policy provoked a flurry of anti-Semitic rhetoric from the United States ruling circles. Mr Posner is an American-born Jew who emigrated to the Soviet Union in 1954 together with his parents, when he was 20. A Czechoslovak radio correspondent met with Mr Posner in Moscow and asked him for more details about the background to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Posner in Russian with superimposed translation] On 26 **February** President Reagan appeared on national television with a speech in which he urged that the military budget should be raised by 12 percent. ABC television, asked me to listen to the speech and assess it in the context of Mikhail Gorbachev's report delivered at the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party. Thus, on 27 February ABC presented a show anchored by David Brinkley, a well known U.S. reporter, in which I answered his questions.

Answering the first question, about my impression of the President's speech, I said it disappointed me greatly because some of its assertions were untrue. Then Brinkley asked me about my opinion on President Reagan's proposals concerning medium range missiles with a view to the Strategic Defense Initiative, whether President Reagan made the situation easier for Mikhail Gorbachev or not. Such was approximately the range of issues touched upon in the interview.

As you can see, nothing special -- quite a normal interview, but perhaps lengthy by American standards. It lasted 8 minutes. I'd like to stress that the interview took place at the request of ABC television.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did the reaction to your interview in the United States surprise you?

[Posner] Yes, it was a complete surprise to me. Some of my earlier comments did draw criticism, but never to the point where the President himself reacted to my interview, or the White House officially protested to ABC, or some congressman used nonparliamentary language -- to put it mildly -- in their speeches. THE NEW YORK TIMES even published two articles reacting to my interview. I would have never expected all that. ABC, too, never expected such a response otherwise it would have never spoken with me.

I think that this sharp reaction was caused by mainly opposition in Congress to President Reagan's drive for a further arms build-up. Evidently, Congress may not approve the President's request for increased military spending. The general sentiment in the United States on this issue has changed notably.

What happened is a lesson to be taught [as heard] by many. Americans like to talk of a free exchange of views, but my case vividly shows where this freedom ends. This should be a lesson to be learned by Americans in the first place. [end recording]

GUS HALL HOLDS MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE

Hails Soviet Arms Position

LD050828 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 5 Mar 86

[Report on Gus Hall, Communist Party U.S.A. general secretary, 4 March press conference at 27th CPSU Congress press center in Moscow from the "International Diary" program presented by Pavel Kasparov; Hall in English with superimposed translation by Kasparov]

[Text] A meeting between journalists and Gus Hall, general secretary of the Communist Party U.S.A., has taken place at the press center of the 27th CPSU Congress. He began his statements with an account of the conversation he had had with Comrade Gorbachev.

[Hall in English] Besides good tea and some good cookies, the meeting with Comrade Gorbachev it [as heard] was a very interesting discussion... [Kasparov's superimposed translation begins] Comrade Gorbachev and I had a very interesting conversation, said Gus Hall. It showed yet again how serious the Soviet Union's attitude is to the problem of the full elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere and the halting of the arms race. One would like the Soviet position not to be seen in the Pentagon as some sort of sign of weakness. The Soviet Union's position reflects a profound understanding of the danger posed to mankind by the nuclear arms race.

The 27th CPSU Congress, continued Comrade Hall, has much greater significance than might at first appear. The concept of security in the nuclear age, which the Soviet Union has proposed and on which the new Soviet peaceful initiatives are based, shows everyone what needs to be done to find deliverance from the nuclear threat. Comrade Hall noted that the Soviet concept of security is diametrically opposed to the U.S. Administration's approach to world problems. The moratorium on nuclear tests introduced by the Soviet Union, he continued, has become a sort of litmus test of the approach of different forces to the cardinal questions of international politics. Those who want to halt the arms race have halted nuclear tests; those who don't want to, are continuing blasts.

PRAVDA Report

PM051043 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 86 Second Edition p 12

[Report by V. Bolshakov and N. Bragin: "Strength of the Ideas of Communism; Reportage from 27th CPSU Congress Press Center"]

[Excerpt] Gus Hall, the leader of the American Communists, arrived at the press center at 1700, immediately after his meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. U.S. Communists rarely receive a "wide press" in their own country; they are invariably persecuted by a "conspiracy of silence." But representatives of all the leading U.S. mass media came to this press conference.

G. Hall spoke warmly and eagerly of his talk with the CPSU Central Committee general secretary, noting that the U.S. people are now extraordinarily interested in continuing the Soviet-U.S. summit dialogue initiated in Geneva and in their mass they oppose the arms race and advocate halting all nuclear tests. This, Gus Hall said, answering a PRAVDA correspondent's question, is evidence that today an increasing number of Americans advocate holding constructive talks on arms reduction and nuclear disarmament. The Communists are also taking an active part in the peace movement. Although it is not easy to do this under the conditions of the military hysteria unleashed in the United States.

There were also the questions from representatives of the U.S. press, whose very nature was evidence that many U.S. journalists have still not removed the blinders of McCarthyism from their eyes. For instance, G. Hall was asked why he criticizes "American democracy" when he himself can freely travel to the USSR, take part in the CPSU Congress, and know that he will not be put in prison for doing all that. But in the Soviet Union... the question was hurled rather than put by a correspondent of the same U.S. television company that has just apologized to the White House for its "excessive" objectivity with regard to the USSR. But Gus Hall interrupted him: "I won't take it upon myself to speak of the Soviet Union. But I have been in prison in the United States. And not even for any criminal actions. Simply for undesirable thoughts. As for democracy in the USSR, I will put it like this: At not a single congress of any bourgeois party in the United States will you hear such frank, keen, and critical talk of the state of affairs in the country as I have heard at the 27th CPSU Congress."

CLAIMS OF SOVIET FRESSURE ON NEW SUMMIT REBUTTED

LD041803 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1515 GMT 4 Mar 86

[From the "CPSU Congress Diary" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Excerpt] Some Western reporters are starting to cast doubt on the reality of our economic plans, and are talking about the halfhearted nature of the approach to economic problems. Out and out inventions have also made their appearance. Thus, for example, some people write that the Soviet Union has decided to put pressure on the White House to gain concessions from it by putting in doubt the possibility of holding a new Soviet-U.S. summit meeting this year.

But Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was speaking about something else -- about the fact that we see the significance of the forthcoming meeting in that it should achieve practical results in the most important directions of limiting and reducing weapons, and practical steps directed at ensuring international security. That is what our country wants; that is what those at the congress are talking about.

But evidently it is just this that irritates the Washington administration. This is fully understandable: After all, at the very time when appeals are being heard from the rostrum of the CPSU Congress for a halt to the arms race, the U.S. President has already several times repeated that there can be no question of any sort of reduction in the U.S. military budget. He spoke of this in his nationwide television address and repeated the same thing in his latest radio address to the country.

U.S. POSTPONES SHUTTLE LAUNCHES FROM VANDENBERG

LD020010 Moscow TASS in English 2313 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] San Francisco, March 1 TASS -- The command of the U.S. Air Force has decided to postpone by a year the launching of reusable spaceships from the Vandenberg launching complex in California. According to the Air Force spokesman, this step was taken in connection with the continuing investigation into the causes of the wreck of the Challenger spaceship last January. It has been reported that in the course of the investigation serious defects and gross miscalculations have been found in the "shuttle" program which jeopardize the safety of flights. The first launch from the Vandenberg base was scheduled for next July. It was closely connected with the wide use of "shuttle" spaceships for military purposes.

TRADE TALKS WITH JAPAN TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW

OW040945 Tokyo KYODO in English 0922 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO -- Japan and the Soviet Union will hold top-level trade consultations in Moscow next week in hopes of further increasing two-way trade, which blossomed to 4.17 billion dollars in 1985, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The trade talks next Tuesday and Wednesday represent the first full-scale meeting after an upgrading of annual trade talks under a new five-year trade pact concluded in January between Japanese Foreign Minsiter Shintaro Abe and his Russian counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze.

Japan will send a delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Reishi Teshima to the Moscow meeting. Aleksey N. Manzhulo, deputy foreign trade minister, will head the Soviet group.

JAPAN TO SEND DELEGATION TO U.S. FOR SDI TALKS

LD041048 Moscow TASS in English 0904 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 TASS -- The Japanese Government has decided to send into the United States a third high-powered delegation to study the question of participation in the Washington administration's so-called "Strategic Defence Initiative."

The delegation will comprise representatives of private Japanese corporations interested in Pentagon orders for the manufacture of space arms and their components. The decision, noted KYODO TSUSHIN news agency, actually means Tokyo's consent to join the "star wars" programme in response to the United States' persistent demands.

Yasuhiro Nakasone's cabinet timed the dispatch of the delegation of experts to America with the visit to Japan by U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger, due early in April, one of the chief objectives of which is to get Tokyo involved as soon as possible in the realization of the American programme to militarize outer space.

U.S.-JAPANESE SEMICONDUCTOR TALKS END IN FAILURE

LD042249 Moscow TASS in English 2058 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 TASS -- Japense-American talks on trade in semiconductors that were held here ended in failure, the Japanese news agency KYODO reports.

The American delegation to the talks demanded that Japan buy more semiconductors in the United States and avoid using dumping practices when marketing Japanese-made semiconductors in the United States.

The Association of Semiconductor Manufacturers of the United States urged the U.S. presidential representative to the trade talks to put an end to "unfair" practices used by Japanese companies which sell semiconductors on the American market.

CONDITIONS FOR DRA WITHDRAWAL REITERATED

PM041411 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 5, Feb 86 p 30

[Lev Yelin reply to reader's letter under the rubric "Taking Up a Point" -- first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] You say that the U.S.S.R. will pull out of Afghanistan as soon as guarantees of non-intervention in the country's affairs are given. I think this is an attempt by the Russians to disclaim responsibility for the introduction and maintenance of troops in a foreign country. Why should everyone do what the U.S.S.R. wants before the Afghan question can be resolved? Olof Gustafsson, Stockholm, Sweden.

To begin with, it should be made clear what it is that the Soviet Union wants and what its goals are. The U.S.S.R. is in favour of Afghanistan being an independent non-aligned state, and I believe that this should not raise any objections, all the less so as this is exactly what the Afghans themselves have always wanted.

A national democratic revolution took place in Afghanistan in April 1978. If you take a look at the history of the country, which was not long ago occasionally referred to as a "fossil of the Dark Ages," you will understand that it was not Moscow intrigues but natural historical processes that led to the April Revolution. The revolution met with strong opposition in the West, the U.S. in particular. As has been the case more than once over the past few decades, Washington relied on counterrevolution, and this is the crux of the problem. Between June and November 1979 alone, the CIA trained and armed 30,000 Afghan counterrevolutionaries in Pakistan. That was how counterrevolutionary opposition to progressive change developed into an aggression from without.

As time went on, the situation deteriorated and the very integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan were placed in jeopardy. In December 1979, after repeated requests from the Afghan leadership, the Soviet Union agreed to send a limited Soviet troop contingent to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter and the 1978 bilateral Soviet-Afghan Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighbourliness and Cooperation.

Let us now see what the U.S.S.R. wants. It would have withdrawn its troops from Afghanistan long ago, but this step does not fit in with U.S. plans. The White House is trying to draw the "Afghan tangle" as tightly as possible and to make it a constant headache for the U.S.S.R. both political and militarily. This explains why the U.S. has made $1.2 billion in aid available to the counterrevolutionaries over the past few years. An infrastructure for undeclared war against Afghanistan has been set up and is being expanded; it consists of more than 120 camps and roughly 100 arms depots and transit points. That is why the question of guarantees has arisen. If the Soviet troop contingent is withdrawn, will not the 1979 aggressive plans be revived, now on a larger scale? The United States did not shrink from a direct act of aggression against Grenada, so what will prevent it from sending mercenary Afghan counterrevolutionaries into action against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan under the command of hundreds of U.S. instructors stationed in Pakistan? That is why the U.S.S.R. calls for formal guarantees for an end to and non-resumption of intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan. When intervention has been stopped and adequate guarantees have been given, the Soviet troop contingent can be withdrawn from Afghanistan by agreement with its government.

In its statements of May 14, 1980, and August 24, 1981, and also in statements by Afghan leaders, the government of Afghanistan clearly stipulated the guarantees it needs. First, subversive camps should be closed immediately.

Second, supplies of weapons and ammunition to counterrevolutionary bandits should be stopped. Third, an official delegation from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan should be allowed to visit the refugee camps in Pakistan to verify the real number of refugees and explain to them that they are free to return home, the Government of Afghanistan guarantees freedom and safety to returnees. It should be specifically stressed that most expatriate Afghans are not enemies of the democratic government, which acts in the vital interests of the people by granting them plots of land and access to sources of water and by providing jobs for them. Many Afghans were confused by complicated developments and took their lead from feudal landowners, on whom they depended economically. Moreover, many do not remain in Pakistan and Iran of their free will, but are prevented from returning by counterrevolutionary leaders, who take advantage of the poverty of the refugees and recruit reinforcements from amongst their number, as well as by the authorities of the host countries who are exploiting the problem. Hence another condition stipulated by Kabul: All refugees wishing to return to their home country should be allowed to do so without any hindrance. Last but not least, international guarantees must be provided. This could apply first and foremost to the U.S.S.R. and the U.S., which should pledge to secure Afghan sovereignty.

The U.S. State Department announced last year that the White House was not adverse to giving such guarantees. However, nothing concrete was said and, moreover, that statement has not been backed up by actions. The United States, on the contrary, has so far given guarantees to the bandits, and pledges its continued support. Secretary of State Shultz has said that Washington is with the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, while Congress sets aside "extra" appropriations for them.

The U.S. President recently spoke of "reconciliation" in Afghanistan. But his message was that reconciliation should benefit the counterrevolutionaries. Attempts are being made to decide the fate of Afghanistan without regard for the true interests of the Afghan people and without their government taking part. It is symptomatic that wishes like the one expressed by the U.S. President are quickly forgotten. On the other hand, as a result of the diplomatic efforts of Kabul, the first round of indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks took place in Geneva in June 1982. Six rounds have since taken place and progress has been made on a number of issues. Yet the Pakistani side would not accept the logical link between guarantees and Soviet troop withdrawal. Neither would it agree to direct talks. This position is easy to explain: The American press reported that Washington would not approve a draft agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan, even if outstanding issues were settled. This really tells the story.

There are of course other parties involved in the undeclared war. Yet the anti-Afghan forces are headed by the U.S., and the main thing is to obtain guarantees from Washington for an end to intervention in the internal affairs of Democratic Afghanistan.

UPCOMING U.S.-THAI 'COBRA GOLD' EXERCISES NOTED

LD041640 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] The leader of People's Kampuchea, Heng Samrin, has reaffirmed his country's foreign policy of peace. He said the following in an interview for Radio Moscow:

[Begin Heng Samrin recording in vernacular fading to English translation] Since it was formed, said Heng Samrin, the People's Republic of Kampuchea has been consistently following an independent policy of peace and nonalignment. Along with Vietnam and Laos, it stands for dialogue with its neighbors so as Southeast Asia should turn into a region of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation. [end recording]

The peaceable strivings of Kampuchea, notes our commentator Vladimir Korolev, stem from the very essence of the objectives facing that country. Kampuchea is rising from the ruins it was plunged into by the Pol Pot clique, which exterminated more than 3 million Kampucheans. Today every resident of Kampuchea is well aware of his or her future and of the nation's future, too, as it has entered the path of socialist development of building a just society where everything is brought in line with the interests of man.

But such a prospect does not suit Kampuchea's foes. Earlier in the week the commanding officer of the United States Armed Forces in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Admiral Ronald Hays, arrived in neighboring Thailand. Reportedly, he is to try to strengthen U.S.-Thai military cooperation aimed against the peace-minded countries of Indochina. I may note that later this month a U.S.-Thai military exercise codenamed "Cobra Gold" will be held in close proximity to the Kampuchean border. In that area of Thailand there are bases of the reactionary Khmer groupings which, with the connivance of the United States, Thailand, and other foreign forces, are staging armed provocations against Kampuchea.

JAPANESE MEDIA CITED ON U.S. SPIES IN PHILIPPINES

LD041823 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Manila, March 4 TASS -- The Philippine Government intends to revise the Constitution in effect in the country, which was adopted in 1973 during Ferdinand Marcos' tenure, Vice President Salvador Laurel has stated. He said that Corazon Aquino, head of government, is to set up a governmental commission in the nearest future to draft a new constitution which will be put to a national referendum.

Addressing a press conference here, Laurel, who concurrently holds the post of the minister of foreign affairs, touched upon the foreign policy of the country's present leadership. He said that Philippine-U.S. relations would be given as before top priority in the Philippines' foreign policy. The Aquino government will be committed to the 1947 agreement on military bases to the point when it expires in 1991, following which a decision will be taken on the further validity of the agreement at talks with the United States.

Tokyo, March 4 TASS -- During the crisis in the Philippines the U.S. CIA moved there 150 "experts" in covert operations who settled in (?various) areas of the country, the Japanese weekly SHUKAN SANKEI writes. Troops of the "Green Berets", experts in punitive operations against the civilian population, were also transported to the Philippines.

The weekly SHUKA POSUTO writes that according to far from complete information, at least 300 U.S. professional under-cover spies and specialists in misinformation and "psychological warfare" are active in Manila alone at present. (?The) agents of U.S secret services penetrated the administrative machinery, the leadership of bourgeois parties and (?press) media. Their efforts are now aimed, primarily, at preventing representatives of the progressive forces who demand an end to U.S. military presence in the Philippines from being involved in the (?work) of government bodies.

VORONEZH PLANT HOSTS SOVIET-VIETNAMESE RALLY

PM031613 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 86 Second Edition p 11

[TASS report under general heading: "Cordial Fraternal Meetings"]

[Text] The international solidarity and fraternal cooperation linking the peoples of the Soviet Union and Socialist Vietnam are growing stronger and developing. This was noted at a Soviet-Vietnamese friendship meeting held at the Voronezh "Elektrosignal" plant.

Vo Chi Cong, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPV Central Committee, said that the Central Committee Political Report had made a great impression on the CPV delegation. The decisions of the 27th Congress, he noted, will undoubtedly have an all-around effect not only on increasing the USSR's economic and defense potential, but will also be of historic significance for the entire socialist community, the world revolutionary process, and the movement of peace-loving forces.

The Vietnamese people, Vo Chi Cong said, are well aware that all their victories in building socialism and in the struggle against aggressors are indissolubly connected with the powerful support and disinterested and effective assistance of the USSR.

The Vietnamese comrades visited the Novovoronezh AES.

TRIBUTES TO OLOF PALME; QUESTIONS ABOUT KILLING

Arbatov Tribute

PM040955 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 12

[Georgiy Arbatov article entitled "In Memory of Olof Palme"]

[Text] I do not know who killed Olof Palme, but I know well who hated him. He was hated by those who hate and detest the causes he devoted his life to -- peace and disarmament, the eradication of colonialism and its consequences, and security in Europe and throughout the world, including military, political, and economic security. Security for all, incidentally, was the name of a report drawn up by the independent commission on disarmament and security which he founded and which is known as the Palme Commission.

All noble causes, as is known, have quite a few enemies...

As a member of this commission, I met with Olof Palme a number of times in the past 5 years in different parts of the world, from Hiroshima to Mexico and from Stockholm to New Delhi. I saw how deeply he was respected by some people and hated by others. I saw demonstrations by neo-fascists, I saw thugs cursing and threatening him, I read seditious articles smearing Sweden's prime minister, and more than once I witnessed provocations engineered against him.

In Sweden, in America, and in a number of other countries there were people who hated Olof Palme. And they had reason to hate him, a man of clear-cut views who was never afraid of voicing them, whether the matter at issue was U.S. aggression against Vietnam, apartheid in South Africa, the plight of oppressed nations, or the nuclear arms race. Ideologically, Palme, a leader of international social democracy, and we stood, of course, on different positions. But along with a number of other social democratic and labor figures he saw, he realized the importance of cooperation among all of mankind's healthy forces; cooperation between the capitalist West and the socialist East, and hence cooperation between the social democrats and the communists for peace, disarmament and international security, and the resolution of major global problems.

...The last time I met Palme was in the middle of last January in New Delhi, which was the venue of another session of the commission he led. Today it looks like a kind of tragic symbol, that a year after the equally villainous murder of Indira Gandhi he gave a lecture there in tribute to her memory.

On those days Palme discussed with the present Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, among other important matters, the latest initiatives for disarmament and international security advanced by the leaders of six states. And his thoughts were about his commission's further activities in the light of the situation that had taken shape and of the new proposals of the USSR (put forward in M.S. Gorbachev's statement of 15 January this year).

I spoke with him more than once on those January days, including about his official visit to the Soviet Union planned for early April. Olof Palme was looking forward impatiently to this visit and to his forthcoming talks with M.S. Gorbachev. Now, alas, these plans will never be fulfilled....

O. Palme expected a great deal from this visit, primarily as Swedish prime minister.

He understood the importance of goodneighborly, really good relations between our countries and wanted to remove obstacles standing in the way of their development and to increase mutual understanding and trust. He also looked forward to this visit as a political figure who had put so much energy into solving the problems of disarmament and international security.

He had a keen sense for everything new that emerged in world politics and he treated the Soviet initiatives with great attention. He spoke very highly of the Soviet proposals for delivering humanity from weapons of mass destruction, believing that these initiatives can mark a promising watershed in the development of international relations.

He did not have time to do a great deal of what he had planned, what he had intended, what he could still have done. And that is why his tragic death is a great loss. A loss both for the Swedish people and for the many noble causes in which all mankind has a vital interest. The Soviet people, our party, and our country's government grieve over this loss. The memory of the Swedish prime minister, an outstanding political figure, was honored by the 27th CPSU Congress being held in Moscow.

For me personally, it is also a personal loss. Over recent years Palme became my friend, someone I often agreed and not infrequently also argued with, but always, invariable respected deeply. He was an intelligent, purposeful, noble, impeccably honest and very brave man. Otherwise, he would not have become the Olof we all know and the whole world knew.

CDE Session Pays Respects

LD041057 Moscow TASS in English 1001 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 4 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Vukolov reports:

Till the last moment of his life Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme had faith in the triumph of human wisdom and highly appreciated constructive steps in the international arena directed at eliminating the nuclear threat.

In his last interview with the trade union newspaper STATSANSELLD, which he granted only a few hours before his tragic death, he again welcomed the Soviet Union's decision to prolong the unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, which was contained in the statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, of January 15, this year. It is absolutely obvious, he pointed out, that the world will be a safer place, if all nuclear explosions are halted.

Olof Palme voiced hope for the speediest mutual and verifiable termination of nuclear testing, and stressed the great significance of the strengthening movement of the peoples for peace and disarmament, pointed out the important role of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

The delegates to the Stockholm forum held a special session, at which they observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the late Swedish prime minister, who has done much to preserve peace and security in the world. An evidence of recognition of the services performed by Olof Palme in that noble activity is the decision of the board of the Social-Democratic Labour Party of Sweden to set up a special "Olof Palme Memorial Fund of International Mutual Understanding and General Security". The fund will be used to broaden for young people the opportunity to study questions pertaining to peace and disarmament.

Speculation on Motives

PM041247 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Mar 86 Second Edition p 12

[Tribute to Olof Palme by Chingiz Aytmatov, academician of the European Academy of Sciences, Art, and Literature and delegate to the 27th CPSU Congress: "There Is No Peace in the Groves of Neutrality"]

[Text] As always on these occasions, the news was unexpected, like a gust of wind. And as always, you do not want to believe it.

The whole world shuddered. A neutral state's head of government, Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden, has been assassinated. He was a prominent statesman and public figure, who actively worked for strengthened peace, disarmament, and trust and cooperation between peoples, and consistently favored the development of relations between the USSR and Sweden in the spirit of mutual understanding and good-neighborliness.

Who was, or rather who were the assassins? Their names are not yet known. But it is clear even now that the terrorist crime was not committed by aliens from another planet, but by forces here on earth which are interested in a shift to the right of whole countries and regions and in intimidating the public which heeds the voice of an honest individual.

I ask myself: When did Palme become a target? Maybe it was back when he, as a relatively young man, placed himself at the head of a broad public movement in Sweden against the U.S. dirty war in Vietnam. Or perhaps when, as deputy chairman of the Socialist International, he worked successfully toward establishing European and world security and inducing the Socialist International to turn to sensible East-West cooperation and mutual understanding, and open dialogue with the socialist countries. Or when, in recent years, he became a major political thinker who actively defended mankind's universal interests -- that is, the idea which has just been given full expression at the 27th CPSU Congress, namely that all peoples and countries, regardless of their sociopolitical differences, can live and look to the future with confidence only under the one, invariable condition that they channel their efforts into nuclear disarmament and prevent the militarization of space. Indeed, he favored the sole possible form of coexistence of opposed ideologies and cultures which is the imperative of mankind today. Or perhaps he became a target when he acted as one of the initiators of the meeting of the "six" and the proclamation of the nonaligned countries' famous document -- the Delhi Declaration.

The fact that as a result of this villainous murder, Europe has lost a glorious son and an outstanding politician, reminds me of a similar recent tragic event. In my view Olof Palme was in the same league as Indira Gandhi. As to his importance and weight, he occupied a similar place in Europe to that which she occupied in Asia. And I mourn and pay tribute to the memory of this amazing man. I had occasion to hear and see him and to admire his profound intellect. The waves of imperialist violence are spreading farther and farther. Even in the groves of neutrality there is no peace.

This is what was on my mind when the sad news was announced at the 27th CPSU Congress and when the whole hall rose to honor the memory of the glorious son of the Swedish people, Olof Palme, with mournful silence.

Professional Killer Sought

LD050030 Moscow TASS in English 2350 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 5 TASS -- The investigation into the murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden continues. REUTER reports that Stockholm Police Commissioner Hans Holmer said in an interview to the Swedish television that, in the opinion of the police, the assassin was a hired professional killer. He said that was evidenced by the character of the attack and the type of bullets used in the murder weapon. According to the data collected by the Stockholm police, REUTER says, the assassin had at least one accomplice who waited for him in a car. Swedish authorities, news agencies report, offered a 70,000 dollar reward for information leading to the arrest of the criminals.

PALME MURDER LINKED TO U.S., ISRAELI 'TERRORISM'

LD031906 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Leonid Levchenko commentary]

[Text] The vicious murder of the Swedish prime minister, Olof Palme, has made many people sad in their hearts. Why? The word was written on the pieces of paper Swedish people attached to nosegays of flowers laid at the spot of the murder. Really, why? Olof Palme was known throughout the world as an outstanding leader who favored the creation of European and world security and ridding mankind of the threat of nuclear devastation. He spoke in favor of peaceful solutions of crises and conflicts around the world. In zones of crises and conflicts artificially sustained by forces that would like to draw benefits from them a fertile soil is created for international terrorism, undeclared wars, exports of counterrevolution in all its forms, political assassinations, seizing of hostages, hijacking of aircraft, explosions in the streets, airports and railways stations, all that is a manifestation of international terrorism.

The world community condemns terror. At its 39th session the United Nations General Assembly passed a Soviet-sponsored resolution on the impermissability of the policy of state terrorism. During voting on the resolution only the United States, Israel, and the representative of the Chilean junta voted against. The reason for that lies on the very surface. The United States is using its mercenaries to conduct terrorist activities against whole nations. The examples are Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Angola, and Kampuchea. Israel has committed acts of pathological terrorism on the occupied Arab lands and the Chilean putschists have dealt brutally with champions of democracy. When a leading capitalist power openly takes up the policy of international terrorism this encourages violence and individual terror.

MITTERRAND VISIT TO MOSCOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

LD031326 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] The president of the republic is to visit Moscow next June. At least this is what Georgiy Arbatov of the USSR Academy of Sciences announced today. Mr Arbatov even said that the talks would mainly concern nuclear weapons.

'DIPLOMAT' DISCUSSES PEACE CONFERENCE ISSUE

TA020926 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Mar 86 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Paris by correspondent Gid'on Kuts]

[Excerpt] Paris -- The Soviet Union is not making the convening of an international Middle East peace conference conditional upon the participation of the PLO, and the Palestinians must select their own representatives. This was stated by a Soviet diplomat serving in Paris to DAVAR. In a conversation that was held in the Soviet Embassy's information center, the diplomat said: "The United States and Israel are the ones to present preconditions regarding nonparticipation of the PLO." He claimed that contacts between Soviet and Israeli diplomats may be possible regarding preparations for an international conference. But he added that the future of the contacts and the future of relations with Israel in general largely depend on the U.S. position and on relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, "which is Israel's chief ally." "You will first consult with the United States, while we talk to Syria, and then it will be possible to sit down together," the diplomat said. He expressed his opinion that there will be no indication of the possibility of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel as long as Israel fails to change its policy, including a withdrawal from the territories it conquered. He claimed that the CPSU congress will not produce any developments, certainly not official, with respect to Israel or the issue of Soviet Jews.

PDRY AIDE: FIGHTING 'CONSEQUENCES' TO BE OVERCOME

LD021828 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0001 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant general secretary of the Yemen Socialist Party of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, by unidentified correspondent; Muhammad in Arabic fading into superimposed Russian translation; date, place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] You are aware that Democratic Yemen has undergone a severe test. We have lost our comrades who held important party and government posts, including 'Abd al-Fattah Ismail, our party's founder. The economy was also seriously damaged. These events have undermined the country's position in both the Arab world and in the international arena. However, basing ourselves upon the firmness and decisiveness of the party, its members' devotion to the cause of the revolution, and also support from the fraternal Soviet Union and national progressive forces of the Arab world and the Arab Communist movement, we are confident that all negative consequences of the recent events will be overcome swiftly. We will not turn from the path of building socialism.

NEW TIMES REVIEWS 'TRAGIC EVENTS' IN PDRY

PM041521 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 6, 17 Feb 86 p 10

[A. Ulanskiy article: "The January Crisis"]

[Text] The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) saw tragic events last month, January 13, when internal clashes, became black Monday in the Republic's calendar. Army units and certain tribal groups became involved in bitter conflicts, news agencies report. In Aden, the capital and an important port of the country, fighting was at its most furious. Great damage was done to the city's municipal economy. A number of districts came under heavy artillery and tank fire which left many buildings in ruins and took a heavy toll of lives.

To judge from contradictory reports coming in from Aden, fighting stopped on January 24. On that day the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party gathered for an extraordinary meeting to discuss the situation. The meeting adopted a statement to the effect that as a result of internecine clashes, South Yemen's revolutionary gains were imperilled, and the working people's hopes for liberation, progress, socialism, and unity were threatened. The statement noted that imperialist and reactionary forces had a direct interest in putting an end to the South Yemen revolution and undoing its achievements, "in undermining the party from within through elements and forces opposed to its class and ideological policy."

The meeting called on "party organizations all party members to strengthen their militant cohesion, cement the organizational and ideological unity of the party on the strong foundations of its Programme and rules," on the basis of adherence to the ideas of scientific socialism and the principles of proletarian internationalism. It also called on the people to rally around the party and its collective leadership to heal the wounds, protect the revolution and system of government, and defend national independence.

The YSP Central Committee expressed its appreciation of the support and solidarity of the socialist countries, especially the U.S.S.R. and its Leninist party. It stressed that the strengthening and development of relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries would remain a cornerstone of the Republic's foreign policy. The meeting vested the Political Bureau of the Central Committee with full powers of government and instructed to take every measure to strengthen the leading role of the party, and restore calm in the country. The plenary meeting recommended that Haydar abu Bakr al-'Attas, a member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, be elected vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and appointed acting president of the Republic. He was on an Asian tour when the tragic events occurred and returned home from Delhi via Moscow.

In a TV address to the nation at the end of January, Haydar abu Bakr al-'Attas said that the main task now was to undo the effects of the January 13 events as soon as possible and continue to carry out social and economic development plans. The people of South Yemen must redouble their vigilance in view of the various attempts being made to revive hostile actions against the country's indepencence and security, he said. According to Aden radio, armed clashes had ended all over the country, Abyan and Shabwah Provinces included, by the end of January. In Aden itself, municipal transport is back in service, shops have reopened. TV broadcasts have been resumed and newspapers are again being issued. The debris is being cleared and damaged water and energy supply systems have been repaired. The first planes to land on Aden airport's newly repaired runway were two Soviet ones which brought supplies to the capital as part of a programme of relief for the population. The aid came from the Soviet Red Cross. A Soviet ship brought in building materials. Aid started arriving from other states and international organizations as well.

On February 1, Haydar abu Bakr al-'Attas told a press conference in Aden that South Yemen would continue with its former foreign policy based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, good-neighborliness, and cooperation with all countries which respect the independence and sovereignty of the country and do not interfere in its affairs. He said that the P.D.R.Y. wished to strengthen its relations with the Yemen Arab Republic, other neighbouring states on the Arabian peninsula, and with the rest of the Arab world. Our links with the U.S.S.R. are close, as friendly links should be, and we shall go on promoting them in the interests of our two countries, he said. The South Yemen people's road to freedom from British colonialism was a hard one. In the years of independence, it coped with difficult domestic problems. There is no doubt now, too, it will prove equal to overcoming the grievous consequences of the January crisis.

ORTEGA SAYS NEW CONTRA AID WILL 'FRUSTRATE' PEACE

LD281348 Moscow TASS in English 1234 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Managua, February 28 TASS -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega views the intention of the Reagan administration to sock congress for 100 million dollars in aid to mercenary Somocista gangs as a flagrant challenge to the Latin American public, which demands an end to U.S. military intervention in the affairs of Central America. He pointed out in a message to the presidents of the countries of the Contadora Group and the support group that Washington's latest action was likely to frustrate the multilateral efforts for the relaxation of tension and the strengthening of peace in the region.

The United States, the message says, is parading its absolute rejection of the proposals which have been put forward by the Contadora Group and which envision a series of simultaneous steps to settle the regional crisis, including an end to the U.S. military backing of the Somocista gangs. The actions of the Reagan administration constitute an act of confrontation with Latin America, which is seeking a just solution to the Central American conflict on the basis of respect for the independence and sovereignty of the peoples.

The Nicaraguan president called upon the countries of the Contadora Group to show firmness in upholding the plan for peaceful settlement in Central America suggested by it and to make every effort to compel Washington to drop its policy of agression and armed diktat.

URUGUAY CP LEADER ON LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS

LD041941 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 4 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 4 TASS -- The safeguarding of peace, the ways of ridding humanity of the threat of nuclear annihilation held most important place in the work of the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communists, Rodney Arismendi, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Uruguay, said at a meeting with journalists in the press centre of the 27th CPSU Congress today. The congress has confirmed the Soviet Union's course at nuclear disarmament, at banning chemical weapons. The Soviet proposals make it possible to establish a dialogue between the USSR and the USA for the sake of ensuring international security, peaceful coexistence of states with different political systems.

All this is of huge importance for Latin America, a continent shaken by social upheavals now. Major revolutionary and democratic changes take place in Latin America, Rodney Arismendi said. The quest for the continent's ways of development, for getting rid of political and economic dependence is conducted. [as received] Not only communists, not only those who declare against imperialism, but also many governments, ruling circles now seek a peaceful solution to problems of Central America. This is evidenced by the efforts of the Contadora Group which declared its negative attitude to the United States policy against Nicaragua.

The United States aggressive actions against Nicaragua pose special threat to Central America, Rodney Arismendi said. The United States continues interfering in the affairs of that country, repeating what it had been doing in the past to Vietnam. The United States exerts itself to hamper the democratic process in Nicaragua, prevent that country from achieving political and economic independence. The United States policy against Nicaragua can lead Central America to a major war.

That war could sweep the entire continent. The U.S. Administration imposed a blockade against Nicaragua. It does not recognise the decisions of the International Court in the Hague which condemned such actions by the USA. The Organisation of American States has also declared against Reagan's policy. There is not a single movement in Central America now that would share the United States policy with regard to Nicaragua.

Rodney Arismendi ridiculed allegations that there is foreign military personnel in Nicaragua. This lie has been exposed also by many Americans who visited Nicaragua. Everybody in our continent realise full well how closely the questions of peace are linked with what takes place around Nicaragua, Arismendi said. The U.S. Administration should conduct a policy of dialogue and mutual understanding in Latin America instead of imposing on countries of the region regimes suiting Washington.

Touching upon the question of external indebtedness of Latin American countries, Rodney Arismendi said: This huge debt which our countries are unable to repay reflects a profound crisis which has gripped not only the Third World but also industrialised capitalist countries. The crisis is aggravated by the drop in prices on oil which carries Venezuela, Ecuador, Mexico and some other countries to the brink of bankruptcy.

In these conditions it is necessary to strengthen mutual understanding of Latin American peoples to form a common front for the creation of a new international economic order. Non-equivalent trade engulfs the results of the work of peoples of Latin American countries, their funds that should be channelled for the economic development.

Answering a question about a possibility of fascist coups in Latin America, Rodney Arismendi said that such a danger can never be ultimately eliminated, since fascist coups in countries of the continent were not accidental. They meant the implementation of certain plans in which the Pentagon, CIA and the U.S. Administration were involved. They were backed by financial circles interested in such coups. As long as there exist forces that will be operating against democratic governments in Latin America, against democratic institutions, the danger of fascist coups will persist.

Rodney Arismendi condemned the U.S. "doctrine of neo-globalism" and its concrete implementation in Latin America. He stressed that that doctrine is part of the aggressive strategy of the U.S. imperialist circles.